Docket No. 223002006313 Client Reference PP0063.021

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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Why he In the application of:

Michael HOUGHTON et al.

Serial No.:

08/441,355

Filing Date:

May 15, 1995

For:

**HCV IMMUNOGENS AND** 

IMMUNOGENIC COMPOSITIONS

Examiner: M. Zeman

Group Art Unit: 1643

413/01 MK Doman

## PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116

Assistant Commissioner for Patents Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

This amendment is responsive to the request for Removing the Finality of the Office Action pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.129(a) mailed November 17, 2000. This amendment is further to the earlier preliminary amendment filed January 26, 2001. Applicants respectfully request that these amendments be entered and considered on its merits.

<u>AMENDMENTS</u>

04/26/2001 TPLUNKET 00000006 031952

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In the Claims:

Please add the following new claims:

01 FC:102

640.00 CH

02 FC:103

3744-00 CH

A method of preparing biological samples from human individuals prior to use to prevent transmission of hepatitis C virus (HCV), said method comprising: